



Intel Gigabit Case Study –
La Calhène SA, Vendôme,
France

La Calhène chooses Gigabit Ethernet to keep up with technical design requirements and secure its data

By upgrading its design department's LAN, servers and desktop computers, as well as the company's backup LAN to 1Gbps with Intel® PRO/1000 adapters, containment specialist La Calhène has not only significantly speeded up its technical design activities, but also reduced the risk of data loss and ensured more efficient backup and restore processes.

Profiled Organisation	La Calhène SA, Vendôme, France
The Challenge	The 100Mbps LAN used by La Calhène's design department was not powerful enough to support its new technical design software. Network response times became unacceptable, loading and transfer of plans and drawings slowed down and sometimes failed, and data was being lost.
The Solution	Upgrade the design department's LAN, servers and desktop computers to Gigabit Ethernet capability to speed up response times and ensure successful loading of technical drawings and plans. At the same time, upgrade the entire site's backup LAN to 1Gbps to support an enhanced backup schedule, guard against data loss and improve restoration processes.
Benefits	Significantly improved network response times. Successful loading and transfer of technical drawings and plans. Improved user satisfaction and productivity. Reduced risk of data loss and missed project deadlines. Implementation of enhanced backup and restore processes. Reliable and cost-effective solution.

Summary:

La Calhène designs and manufactures isolation and containment equipment for the nuclear, healthcare, electronics, and food and beverage industries around the world. The company, part of GETINGE AB, is based in France with sites at Vendôme and Orsay, and also has facilities in the US and the UK.

In 2001 the design department at the Vendôme site found that the response times of its 100Mbps LAN were too slow to support effective use of its newly installed technical design software. It was impossible for the department to work efficiently because plans and drawings were slow to load, or failed to load, and data was lost on occasion, all of which put project deadlines at risk.

La Calhène's IT Director worked with a service provider partner to upgrade the design department's LAN to 1Gbps by installing Intel® PRO/1000 Gigabit Ethernet server adapters in its servers, and Intel® PRO/1000 Gigabit Ethernet desktop adapters in the department's 15 desktop computers. This provides enough bandwidth for the design department to use its technical design software effectively and meet project timescales. At the same time, the Vendôme site's backup LAN was also upgraded to 1Gbps using Intel technology to support an enhanced backup schedule and reliable data restore processes.

Challenge: unacceptable network performance for critical design activities

La Calhène is a pioneer in the isolation and containment industry, with an impressive customer list across the nuclear, healthcare, electronics and food and beverage sectors. Active since the mid-1960s, La Calhène is based at Vendôme and Orsay in France, with further facilities in Minneapolis in the US and Cambridgeshire in the UK. It markets, designs, manufactures, installs and services standard and customised equipment to meet customer requirements for the protection of products from the external environment, or the protection of facilities and personnel from potentially dangerous products.

In 2001, new technical design software was installed at the Vendôme site to replace the 15-person design department's existing computer-aided design (CAD) application. However, the new software's complex internal management system, which uses libraries and indexes to create links between elements, quickly proved too much for the department's 100Mbps LAN. Response times were very slow, technical drawings and plans were taking too long to load or were failing to load at all, and data was sometimes being lost altogether.

"Not only was it extremely tedious and frustrating for the designers," recalls La Calhène's IT Director, Nathalie Lagier, "but in some cases project deadlines were put at risk. It was clear we had to provide more network bandwidth to give the designers better response times, so that they could make effective use of the new software and deliver against project schedules."

Process: quick upgrade of servers and desktop computers to Gigabit Ethernet

For Lagier, Gigabit Ethernet was the obvious choice for upgrading the network to ensure adequate bandwidth and improve response times. "We didn't investigate any other options," she recalls. "Moving to Gigabit Ethernet was an instinctive decision."

Lagier also decided to take the opportunity to upgrade the Vendôme site's backup LAN to Gigabit Ethernet at the same time, to provide enhanced backup and restore capabilities for all 175 employees.

The upgrade work was carried out in partnership with a service provider with whom La Calhène already had a good relationship, and who recommended Intel components for their reliability and cost-effectiveness.

Intel® PRO/1000 Gigabit Ethernet server adapters were installed in the design department's four Hewlett Packard LT6000R servers, and Intel® PRO/1000 Gigabit Ethernet desktop adapters were added to the 15 Hewlett Packard Workstation X4000 desktop computers used by the designers. At the same time, the six servers on the backup LAN were also upgraded with Intel® PRO/1000 Gigabit Ethernet server adapters. Installation was simple and took under a week.

Solution: immediate improvements for users

For the design department, the improved network response times had an immediate positive impact on their productivity, with fast, reliable loading of plans and drawings freeing them to work much more efficiently.

"The users were extremely pleased," comments Lagier. "When the new design software was first installed, they were on the phone to the IT department every five minutes because of problems with the network, but since we implemented the Intel Gigabit Ethernet solution, there have been no complaints at all."

The simultaneous upgrade of the backup LAN to Intel Gigabit Ethernet enabled the company to enhance its backup routines. "For the design department we run backups twice a day," explains Lagier, "and for all other users at the site there are daily incremental backups plus a full backup once a week."

Since the backup LAN upgrade, Lagier says the site has experienced two IT incidents that have required data to be restored. "We run a wide variety of operating systems and back up huge volumes of data," she comments. "On both occasions, our backup routine proved to be reliable, and we carried out completely successful restores without losing any data."

The Intel Gigabit Ethernet LAN solutions have completely met the needs of both the design and IT departments. "For the designers, the main benefit is the much faster network, which means they are no longer hampered in their work by the time taken to load or transfer drawings, and they are reassured that the risk of losing data has been minimised," says Lagier.

For the IT department, the upgrades to both LANs were straightforward to implement and have solved the problems they were meant to solve. "In addition," says Lagier, "we are impressed by both the reliability and the value for money of the Intel Gigabit Ethernet solutions."

Find a network connectivity solution that is right for your company. Contact your Intel representative or visit the Intel® Web site at www.intel.co.uk/network/connectivity

Copyright © 2006 Intel Corporation.

Intel is a trademark or registered trademark of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries.

**Other names and brands may be claimed as the property of others.*

